

Page Denied

1 February 1983

Daily Summary of Positions on INF—Classified Developments

UK Preparing INF Campaign

A Defense Ministry official has told our Embassy in London that Defense Secretary Heseltine will appoint an Assistant Secretary to handle INF public affairs. The new assistant will report directly to Heseltine. The official said that the British would still like to arrange a carefully controlled visit by the press to Greenham Common in the predeployment period and perhaps one after deployment next December. [REDACTED]

25X1

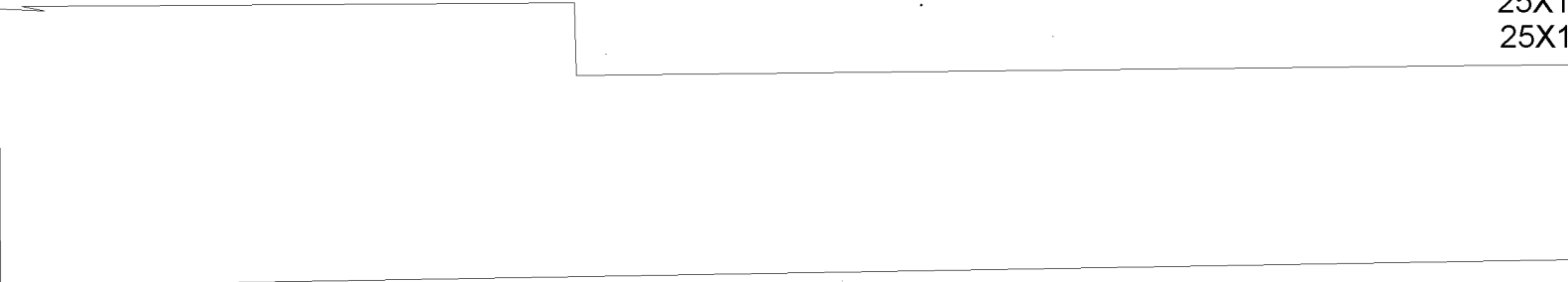
25X1

The Hague Seeks To Clarify INF Position

West Germany's Ambassador to the Netherlands has reported to our Ambassador at The Hague on Dutch Prime Minister Lubbers' recent visit to Bonn. Lubbers expressed doubts about US sincerity in arms talks and said there is growing concern in the Dutch parliament about the zero option. He added that he had not yet decided how to approach the parliament on INF and noted that, since the issue probably would come up again by June or July, progress at Geneva would be crucial. Lubbers reportedly suggested to Kohl the idea of implementing the zero option in "small steps," but Kohl reportedly responded that it would be dangerous for the Allies to abandon the option in public, saying that zero "should be played for all it is worth." Our Embassy at The Hague has added a followup report that Lubbers, in a Dutch television interview, explicitly discussed the "small steps" approach as the best way of ending the "rather frozen situation" in Geneva. [REDACTED]

25X1

25X1

PCI Again Rejects Deployment

The Italian Communist Party late last week formally reconfirmed its opposition to INF deployment, calling for a delay on the decision to deploy, for a parliamentary debate prior to a final decision, and for the suspension of preparatory work at the Comiso base. A senior Socialist who specializes in the defense area also has suggested publicly that preparations at Comiso be delayed while negotiations are under way. [REDACTED]

25X1

Comment: We do not believe that these efforts to derail deployment in Italy will have much effect at this time. The PCI always has opposed deployment but has apparently been reluctant to throw its full weight behind Italy's relatively ineffective peace movement. Although there is evidence that a modification in policy is being discussed in PSI circles, as part of the government the Socialists thus far have supported INF. [REDACTED]

25X1

EUR M83-10043C

[REDACTED]

copy

25X1